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WSFR

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181



NOV 18 2009

Dear Interested Party:

The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Washington State Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Park Service (NPS), and the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), are working on a proposed project that requires a review under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The joint project involves a land exchange between WDFW and WDNR to consolidate the existing checkerboard of land ownerships across the state, with a focus on the eastern slopes of the Cascade Mountains. This consolidation will provide a continuous corridor of suitable habitat important for big game, and a number of shrub-steppe and forest dependent wildlife species. The project will also protect, enhance, and support recreational opportunities in Washington State. The resulting blocks of contiguous ownership will improve land management efficiencies, and minimize management conflicts for both WDFW and WDNR.

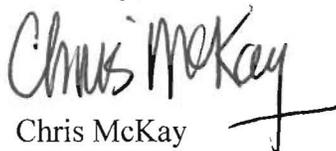
Documents available for review and comment include: a SEPA Checklist, a Determination of Non-significance (DNS) issued by WDFW, a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) issued by USFWS acting as the federal responsible agency, pertinent maps, and this cover letter. These documents are available electronically on the WDFW SEPA page at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/sepa/sepa.htm>. You may also request a paper copy or CD of the materials by contacting Richard Tveten at 360-902-2367.

Comments on the DNS and the EA will be accepted for a period of 30 days ending December 16, 2009. Comments may be submitted by email to SEPAdesk2@dfw.wa.gov, through the WDFW SEPA website comment link at <http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/hab/sepa/sepa.htm>, by fax to 360-902-2946, or by mail to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Teresa A. Eturaspe, SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section, 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091. Please reference WDFW/WDNR Land Exchange in your comment letter.

WDFW, WDNR, RCO, USFWS and NPS will consider comments before making final decisions, and incorporate them into the final SEPA and NEPA documents. Those who have

submitted comments will be notified of the final decisions. Please contact Jennifer Quan, WDFW Lands Program Manager at 360-902-2508, or Dan Edwards, USFWS Wildlife Branch Chief at 503 231-2261, if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris McKay". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style. The "C" is large and loops around the "h". The "M" is also large and loops around the "c". The "K" is tall and thin. There is a horizontal line at the end of the signature.

Chris McKay
Assistant Regional Director, Migratory Birds and
State Programs